COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

October-December 1961

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service - Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

Total domestic landings of fish and shellfish during first eight months of '61 = 3.4 billion pounds, 12 percent more than Jan-August '60.

Cold-storage holdings of edible fishery products Sept. 1, '61 = 178.4 mil. lbs., Sept. 1, '60 = 196.8 mil. lbs., Sept. 1, '59 = 215.8 mil. lbs. Inventories of crabs, fish sticks and portions, fresh-water fish, haddock fillets, spiny lobsters, and whiting were larger on Sept. 1, '61 than year earlier. Lower holdings were reported for most other major species.

Imports Jan-July '61 continued higher than same period '60 for most species. However, receipts of all frozen and canned tuna except canned albacore in brine were lower. Imports of canned crab meat, canned salmon, fresh-water fish, and ocean perch fillets were also below Jan-July '60. Receipts will continue high.

Exports Jan-July '61 were lower than a year earlier for frozen salmon, sardines canned not-in-oil, canned shrimp, squid, and fish oils. Export outlook for fishery products not bright.

Record scallop catch 2.4 mil. lbs. attained at New Bedford in Aug. '61. Landings eight months about one million pounds ahead of record pace set in '60. Value about $1 million more.

Wholesale price index for all edible fishery products in August '61 was 6.1 percent above July '61 and 10.2 percent higher than in August '60. Higher prices for shrimp (fresh and frozen), haddock, and Maine canned sardines in August were responsible for increase over July.

Shrimp landings heads on in South Atlantic and Gulf States through September '61 = 101.6 mil. lbs., about 38 percent lower than same period '60.

Salt-water Fish

FISH STICKS & PORTIONS Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good	Prod. first six mos. '61 = 35.8 mil. lbs., 9% higher than Jan-June '60. Portion prod. same period = 27.4 mil. lbs., up 24%. Combined holdings Sept. 1, '61 = 8.2 mil. lbs., Sept. 1, '60 = 7.7 mil. lbs. Prices slightly higher this quarter.
FLOUNDER & SOLE FILLETS Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good	Landings Jan-July '61 = 29.1 mil. lbs., first 7 mos. '60 = 27.7 mil. lbs. Holdings Sept. 1, '61 = 5.3 mil. lbs., 10% lower than '60. Imports Jan-July '61 = 9.6 mil. lbs., Jan-July '60 = 10.5 mil. lbs. Prices steady.
COD FILLETS Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good	Holdings Sept. 1, '61 = 7.9 mil. lbs., Sept. 1, '60 = 8.9 mil. lbs. Landings light in fourth quarter. Imports thru July '61 18% higher than '60.
HADDOCK FILLETS Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good	Landings will decrease late fall and winter. Holdings Sept. 1, '61 = 10.5 mil. lbs., compared with 9.4 mil. lbs. same date '60. Imports Jan-July '61 = 17.8 mil. lbs., Jan-July '60 = 14.9 mil. lbs., increase of 19%. Prices continue firm.
OCEAN PERCH FILLETS Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate	Holdings Sept. 1, '61 = 10.7 mil. lbs., down 26%. Landings 7 mos. '61 = 82.5 mil. lbs. in Maine and Massachusetts. Landings light this quarter. Imports Jan-July '61 = 6.6 mil. lbs.; Jan-July '60 = 7.8 mil. lbs. Prices rather steady.
HALIBUT Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Good	Landings U. S. and Canada thru Aug. '61 = 64.6 mil. lbs. about same as year earlier. U. S. holdings Sept. 1, '61 = 21.9 mil. lbs., 9% below '60. Prices firm during fourth quarter.
MACKEREL, CANNED Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Light-to-Moderate	Pack of Pacific and Jack mackerel thru Aug. '61 = 495,500 std. cases, 11% higher than same period '60. Moderate landings expected during fourth quarter. Prices steady.
SALMON, CANNED Market - Active Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good	Alaska pack thru Sept. 24, '61 = 3.3 mil. cases, compared with 2.6 mil. cases year earlier. Reds and pinks up, chums lower. Imports Jan-July '61 down 75%. Exports same period up 48%. Fourth quarter prices about steady.
SARDINES, CALIFORNIA Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Active	Landings through Sept. '61 about same as last year. Fish are larger this year and pack has averaged 3 sardines per can. Exports down. Imports up. Prices firm.
SARDINES, MAINE Market - Strong Supplies - Light Demand - Good	Pack of Maine sardines through Sept. 15, '61 = 470,144 std. cases compared with 1,484,717 std. cases same period '60. Prices expected to advance as result of shortage.

TUNA, CANNED

Market - Firm
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Calif. pack Jan-Aug. '[redacted] = 7.4 mil. std. cases only slightly below same period '60. Frozen imports thru July '61 = 123.1 mil. lbs., 6% lower than '60. Imports canned tuna and bonito Jan-July '61 = 1.8 mil. std. cases, same period '60 = 1.7 mil. std. cases.

Shellfish

CRAB MEAT

Market - Firm
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Prod. early fourth quarter Gulf and Atlantic Coast will be good. Holdings Sept. 1, '61 = 2.5 mil. lbs., Sept. 1, '60 = 1.7 mil. lbs. Prices will remain high and firm. Canned crab meat imports Jan-July '61 = 1.5 mil. lbs. 4% below same period '60. Dungeness crab production begins late in quarter on West Coast.

LOBSTERS

Market - Firm
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Maine landings first six months '61 = 4.3 mil. lbs.; Jan-June '60 = 4.5 mil. lbs. Decline in production fourth quarter. Imports from Canada Jan-July '61 = 15.8 mil. lbs., Jan-July '60 = 16.7 mil. lbs. Holdings spiny lobsters Sept. 1, '61 = 5.9 mil. lbs., 49% higher than year earlier.

SCALLOPS, SEA

Market - Active
Supplies - Liberal
Demand - Good

Landings thru July '61 = 12.1 mil. lbs., about same as Jan-July '60. Above normal landings expected in fourth quarter. Holdings Sept. 1, '61 = 2.4 mil. lbs. compared with 3.1 mil. lbs. same date '60. Imports seven months '61 = 4.7 mil. lbs.; Jan-July '60 = 3.9 mil. lbs. Prices will increase slightly.

SHRIMP

Market - Strong
Supplies - Light
Demand - Good

Landings heads on in So. Atlantic and Gulf Jan-Sept. '61 = 101.6 mil. lbs., 63 mil. lbs. less than in nine months '60. Holdings frozen shrimp Sept. 1, '61 = 20.7 mil. lbs. compared with 32.4 mil. lbs. Sept. 1, '60. Canned shrimp inventories low, prices high and affecting demand. Imports frozen shrimp Jan-July '61 = 63.8 mil. lbs., Jan-July '60 = 58.6 mil. lbs. Prices higher this quarter.

Industrial Products

FISH OIL

Market - Steady
Supplies - Liberal
Demand - Moderate

Prod. Jan-July '61 = 18.8 mil. gals. up 46% from '60. Exports thru July '61 about 22% lower than '60. Gains in exports to Canada and Norway offset by reductions in shipments to Sweden, Netherlands, and West Germany. Possible slight decline in price.

FISH MEAL

Market - Unsettled
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Prod. thru July '61 = 162,400 tons; same period '60 = 140,400 tons, up 16%. Imports Jan-July '61 = 126,200 tons; Jan-July '60 = 79,500 tons, up 59%. Imports from Peru increased 100%. Prices steady. Decline in production this quarter.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

The recovery is about complete, and the economy is now moving up to a high level. The business community has an air of confidence.

Industrial production increased further in August; up to 113% of 1957 average. Output of apparel and most home goods remained at advanced rates, while production of televisions and radios declined.

New construction activity changed little in August from the July rate. However, highway construction rose for the third successive month, and residential construction also edged higher.

Employment in nonfarm establishments rose slightly further in August despite large reductions at automobile plants. Employment continued to increase in the metal and machinery industries and in retail trades.

Retail sales changed little in August. However, sales of new cars declined further. At end of August, dealer stocks of new 1961 cars were 25% below year earlier.

THE FOOD SITUATION

Farm output in 1961 probably will be down about 7% from the 1960 record; this will be the first decline since 1949. However, this will not be a seriously limiting factor on food supplies which will continue large into the fall.

Meat - Total supplies of meat will be larger this fall than a year earlier. Hog prices this fall will average below those for the same period last year. Ample supplies of top grades of beef seem assured. Lamb supplies only very slightly above last year, with the seasonal price decline smaller than usual.

Dairy Products - Milk output during 1961 could reach 124.5 billion pounds, compared with 123 billion pounds in 1960. The large supplies of dairy products during the coming months are likely to keep prices quite stable.

Poultry and Eggs - Prospective supplies of broilers are about 10% above last year. The turkey crop in 1961 could be 25% greater than 1960. Egg production in 1961 probably will be up from 1960 with prices later this year averaging lower than in similar period last year.

Fats and Oils - Supplies of edible fats, oils, and oilseeds probably will set a new record in the 1961-62 marketing year. Export outlook for food fats and oils is bright for new market year. Domestic disappearance will continue to rise in line with population growth.

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